

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of August 16, 2005 (the "Action"). Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 12, 13, 22, 27, 29 and 31-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and that Claim 38 is allowed.

Claims 1-11, 14-21, 23-25, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 over various references. Applicants have amended the claims above to place the claims in a form indicated as allowable to expedite issuance of the present application as a patent. Such amendments are made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a continuation and/or divisional application directed to the previously presented claims. In addition, a minor clarifying amendment has been made to Claim 32.

In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 22 and allowable Claims 27, 29, 31, 32 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Claims 1, 27, 29, 31, 32 and 35 are in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 9-12, and 20 depend from Claim 1, Claims 33 and 34 depend from Claim 32 and Claim 36 depends from Claim 35. Such claims depend from allowed claims and are likewise in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 13-19, 21-25, 28, and 37 have been canceled.

Claims 39-68 are new and depend from allowed claims. Claims 39, 45, 51, 57, and 63 correspond to the subject matter of Claim 4. Claims 40, 46, 52, 58 and 64 correspond to the subject matter of Claim 9. Claims 41, 47, 53, 59 and 65 correspond to the subject matter of Claim 10. Claims 42, 48, 54, 60 and 66 correspond to the subject matter of Claim 11. Claims 43, 49, 55, 61 and 67 correspond to the subject matter of Claim 12. Claims 44, 50, 56, 62 and 68 correspond to the subject matter of Claims 20 and 21. Therefore, new Claims 39-68 do not present new matter and are allowable at least per the allowability of the claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,

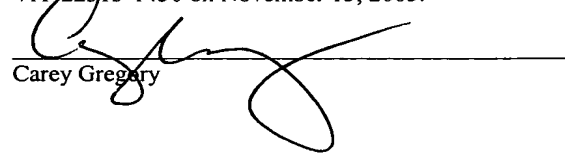


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